

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1-8 remain in the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kernan. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1, as amended, says that “the insulating member and the insulated holder surround a conductive portion including a connecting portion between the conductive connection plate and the tubular electrodes.” This important feature of the invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by Kernan.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. Claims 5-8 recite limitations similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Claims 2-8 should be allowable along with claim 1 and for other reasons.

Further, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kasai. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1, as amended, says that “the insulated holder, the insulating member, the conductive connection plate and the tubular electrodes are substantially closely arranged so as to make no gaps around the tubular electrodes in the load header.” By way of example, please refer to Fig. 1 of the present application, where the tubular electrodes 19 are tightly surrounded with the insulated holder 18, the insulating member 21 and the conductive connection plate 20 so that no air gaps are produced around the tubular electrodes 19.

Figure 3B of Kernan shows a hollow, high pressure compression fitting 164 formed from nylon into which the needle 140 is inserted to complete the tube assembly 160. The connecting portion between the conductive plate 172 and the needle 140 is positioned on the

bottom surface 168 of the mounting plate 162 and is not surrounded by the insulating member and the insulated holder.

Figure 1 of Kasai discloses a load header 4 comprising a holder 25 and a lid 26 fixed on the holder 25. The load header 4 has air gap inside thereof to surround capillaries 1 and electrodes 20. There is air gap around the electrode 20. In Figs. 14A-14D and 20A-20D of Kasai, the top portion of electrode 20 is exposed in air gap. Kasai files to disclose or suggest the array of claim 1, as amended.

As noted above, claims 2-8 should be allowable along with claim 1, and for other reasons. Accordingly, allowance of the application with claims 1-8 is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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